



The above residence is that of H. T. Wilson, a prosperous citizen of Tulsa, who is now engaged in the hotel and restaurant business. Mr. Wilson was born in southern Missouri in 1854. His parents moved to Mississippi when he was six years old. At the time of emancipation he was in Wharton county, Texas, where he worked on the farm and studied his books by lamp light till 18 years old, when he went to Caldwell county and worked as janitor and coachman for seven years. He then married Miss Sylvia Callahan, his present wife. Seven children have been born to them, two boys and five girls. Mr. Wilson lived in Austin, Texas, with his family 27 years, during which time he bought and paid for three homes which he still owns. He came to Tulsa on the 8th day of August, 1906, with no money. Since he came to Oklahoma he has bought four lots in Tulsa, on one of which stands the home shown above, five lots in Winona, and two lots in Cushing. He rents his home out here and he and his wife are conducting a very successful hotel and restaurant business at 120 East Archer. Both he and his wife are race loving people, and always willing to improve the town in which they live. These people are well known and respected by all who know them. Total worth of property \$5,000.00.

16 years old, and went to work on a stock ranch for T. D. Woods, for whom he worked continuously for five years, at St. Mary's Texas. In the meantime, at the age of 16 he married his first wife, Miss Bettie Piper, to whom ten children were born, five girls and five boys, all of whom are still living. After leaving the ranch, he went back to Victoria and engaged in the commission hide business, at which he proved a success. Later he worked for a wholesale grocery company three years. He then entered politics and served four years as republican state committeeman, after which he left and went to Los Angeles, Cal., to open business. He did not like the prospects there, however, and continued his journey to St. Louis, where the world's fair was then in progress. He stayed there three weeks and then went to Muskogee and opened a shooting gallery. After three months he sold this

out and went into the pool hall business. In 1895 he sold out and went into the grocery business, which he conducted 24 months and moved to Vinita, where he conducted a grocery store 18 months. In 1908 he came to Tulsa and opened a grocery store on Archer street in the Partee building. He is now conducting the same business in his own building, owns two apartment houses, besides other valuable real estate. Besides his property in Tulsa, he owns a fine home in Texas, and several lots and a 20-acre farm. He was married the second time to Miss Myrtle Clemons, while he lived in Vinita. In 1911, he was appointed city patrolman of Tulsa, which position he held until July, 1914. Mr. Williams started business in Tulsa on a \$100.00 stock, which has increased to \$1,800.

He is worth approximately \$35,000, with an outstanding indebtedness of about \$500.



F. R. WILLIAMS APARTMENT HOUSE.



The above home is that of Mr. Benj. Lofton, one of the pioneer citizens of Tulsa, having moved here twenty years ago, when Tulsa was little more than a flag station. He was born near Jackson, Miss., in 1851, and spent his earliest life as a slave boy working on the farm. He lived with his parents till he was 18 years old when he married his first wife who died in Mississippi 21 years ago. Three boys and three girls were born to him by his first wife. Twenty years ago Mr. Lofton landed in Tulsa without a penny. Fifty cents was given him with which to have his trunk hauled to his room, but instead of paying it to a baggage men he put the trunk with its heavy luggage on his shoulders and carried it three blocks to his room, thus making his first money in Tulsa, and this was absolutely all he had at that time. He secured work as janitor at a drug store, and while doing this work looked for other jobs. He succeeded in getting two or three offices to clean every morning and at the same time done chores around homes. In this way he soon accumulated a little money which he invested in a 50 ft. lot on the corner of Cheyenne and Archer, which was at that time nothing more than an open field with a big hog ranch within a few paces of his lot which he bought at a cost of \$375.00. He has bought and paid for this lot and erected this house on it out of the money he made at janitor work. His home now is within two blocks of Main street, or the Brady Hotel and he has recently refused \$6,000.00 for the property. A few months ago he purchased a very beautiful home on the corner of Elgin and Davenport, a two-story house on a lot 100x140 ft. at a cost of \$2,300.00, half of which was paid in cash and his notes given for the balance. He married his second wife, Miss Emma Hooper, in this city ten years ago, and they have lived very happily together. Mr. Lofton has done remarkably well in life in view of the fact that he has never gone to school a day in his life, and don't know one letter from another. Though born a slave and denied the benefits of education, he has made good, and now his life may be held up as an example for many of the younger generation who have both freedom and education. Mr. Lofton is highly respected by his neighbors who are mostly white people, and everyone has implicit confidence in his word.

One of the most successful citizens of Tulsa is James Cherry who lives with his family just outside the city limits on North Greenwood. Mr. Cherry was born in Jefferson county, Texas, August 16, 1864. His father owns a Texas farm on which he worked till he was 12 years old. His mother became a widow at an early age, and he was compelled to work to support his mother, so that he was denied the advantages of school. At the age of 12 his mother hired him out at a salary of \$8 per month. He worked one year and made a treaty with his mother whereby he was to work anywhere he wanted to, provided he gave \$8 per month. Obtaining his mother's consent, he went to work as water boy on a railroad, and each month sent his mother \$8 as he had agreed. He followed railroad work continually for 12 years, during which time he worked his way up to section foreman. He then engaged in contract work, which he followed two years. His next work was hotel employee, which he followed until he married Miss Lizzie Jasper of Sulphur Springs, Texas, in 1880. He then bought a farm of 107 acres, and went back to the farm. On this farm he employed 15 people, and worked five teams. He built a nice home and lived at ease on his farm about 15 years, after which he moved to Atoka, Indian Territory, where he lived 18 months, while his family was yet in

Texas. In August, 1906, he came to Tulsa with \$300, and invested \$200 in a home on the corner of Frankfort and Cameron, and returned to Atoka for his family.

After moving his family to Tulsa, he had very little money, but he went to work mowing lawns and other odd jobs, and in one year's time made enough money to pay off a \$500 note on his home, and clear above all other expenses \$900. He then engaged in the plumbing business, and afterward opened a billiard parlor in partnership with his brother, William Cherry. In eight years time he has built ten houses on as many different lots, two two-story brick buildings, on Greenwood—one a store room and lodge room, and the other a small brick used for a barber shop down stairs and offices upstairs. Mr. Cherry has sold his billiard hall and is now engaged in plumbing and the grocery business. He has two boys, Jasper, aged 21, and Emanuel, age 17, who keep up the plumbing work, while he and his wife and daughter look after the store. He is easily worth \$20,000.

F. R. Williams, the subject of this sketch, was born in Talladega, Ala., November 11, 1867. While yet a small boy, his parents moved to Victoria, Texas, where he lived all of his life until ten years ago. He attended public school at Victoria until he was

The above is the home of Deputy Sheriff Barney S. Cleaver, 508 North Greenwood. Mr. Cleaver was born at Newbern, Va., January 2, 1865, where he lived until he was 14 years old, at-

tending public school. At the age of 15, he went to Charleston, W. Va., and secured employment on a steamer running from Charleston to Cincinnati. For several years, he followed



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this kind of work and gained a wide experience of the world in this way. He finally gave up this work to enter the coal mines, which work he followed for a number of years. He has been everything in the coal mines from a trapper boy to manager. He has even superintended the sinking of many mines. He was at one time employed by the Oklahoma & Gulf Coal Co., as immigrant agent, and in this capacity brought more than four thousand people from West Virginia to Oklahoma. He is the man who opened the Grayson Coal & Mineral company, of which company he was for awhile general manager. Several years ago, while at Coalgate, he was appointed special deputy U. S. marshal under Captain Grady. He had already been in the secret service for a number of years and had the reputation of being a very shrewd officer, absolutely fearless in the performance of his duty. Seven years ago, he came to Tulsa and shortly thereafter was appointed city patrolman and served in this capacity four years under four different administrations. He was later appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff McCullough, and is still holding that office under Sheriff McCullough. In June 1910, he married Miss Vernon Wren, of Florence, Ala., and bought the lot on which he built the above home. Mr. Cleaver also owns one-half interest in the Cleaver-Cherry building, a two-story brick, just across the street from his home. The above picture shows Mr. and Mrs. Cleaver, his niece, Mrs. Annie Morrison, and Mrs. Cleaver's little niece, Vernon Cole. The insurance on his home, and the Cleaver-Cherry building shows the property to be worth about \$26,000.

MRS. E. A. JOHNSON  
Bristow, Okla.

The above cut shows the picture of Mrs. Johnson, standing in front of her hotel at Bristow.

This thrifty woman was born in Lake Providence, La., December 17, 1864. At the age of twelve months her parents moved to Marlin, Texas, where she lived thirty years. Thirty-four years ago she was married to Synney Johnson, a Texas man who was at that time a truck gardener. Nine children were born to them, six boys and three girls. Of this number five died and the others are living, and they have always lived with or near their mother.

Twenty-one years ago her husband died, leaving her a widow with the care of her little children devolving upon her. She was then a comparatively young woman and could easily have married again, but she preferred to make her own way through life, believing that the best man in the world died when her husband breathed his last. Since that time she has made a remarkable success in life. She has educated her children and accumulated considerable property.

She came to Tulsa in 1906, and opened a rooming house. She was assisted by two sons and her daughter. Out of her earnings she has purchased one block in Lincoln Heights addition to Bristow, and two business lots on Main street, just two blocks from the Frisco depot, on which she will build a two-story brick building this fall. She is rated at about \$10,000.



The above is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Prytle on North Frankfort, recently built at a cost of about \$200. Mr. Prytle was born in Red River county, Texas, March 17, 1886. While he was yet a boy, his parents moved to the Indian Territory, locating at Ardmore, where they lived until 1900, when they moved to Guthrie, Okla., and later to Langston, where his parents now live.

Mr. Prytle attended school at the C. A. & N. university at Langston. Several years ago he left home to make his way in life alone. After traveling

over a considerable part of Kansas and western Oklahoma, he came to Tulsa in 1906, and went to work in a local hotel. He followed this kind of work for two years, and having a desire to go into business for himself formed a partnership and opened the first colored tailor shop in Tulsa. After a successful business of four years he bought his partner out and has since conducted the business himself with hired help. He was married in this city in 1907 to Miss Paralee Martin of Minden, La., and they have lived together since that time very

happily. The Prytle home is probably the most attractive home in that community. It is modern in every respect. Yet a young man, he has made a splendid start in life and his future prospects are very bright. Besides his tailoring business he is proprietor of Tulsa's only Colored Messenger Service (The Star Messenger Service.) He has recently purchased a motorcycle to facilitate the latter business in which he is also making good. The value of his establishment is placed at \$1,000.00, but it is doubtful if that sum would buy it.